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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/528,390

03/18/2005

Jens Werner Kipp

1983-126

7034

6449

7590

07/26/2007

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.

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SUITE 800

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

HWU, DAVIS D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3752

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/26/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTO-PAT-Email@rfem.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,390

Applicant(s)

KIPP, JENS WERNER

Examiner

Davis D. Hwu

Art Unit

3752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-37 and 39-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/18/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. The values recited in claims 33 and 34 are not ratios because they have dimensions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 31-34, 39-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goenka (US Patent 5,616,067).

Goenka '067 discloses a blasting method for cleaning surfaces wherein liquid CO₂ is supplied via a feed line 24 into an expansion volume and is fed under pressure with a carrier gas to a blasting nozzle 38 wherein a mixture of carrier gas and dry snow is accelerated to at least sonic speed. Goenka '067 does not disclose the volume and cross-sectional area having the relation as recited or the flow rate ratios as recited in claims 33 and 34. It would have been a matter of design choice to have made the relation as recited since such a limitation would have involved a mere change in the sizes of the volume and area which is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. The pressure, temperatures, and flow rate as recited in claims 40-43 would have been matters of operating preference.

4. Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goenka (US Patent 5,616,067) in view of Armstrong.

Armstrong teaches a blast cleaning system in which various parts are insulated to maintain the required temperatures. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Goenka '067 by providing thermally insulating the expansion volume and the feed line as taught by Armstrong in order to maintain the required temperatures.

5. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goenka (US Patent 5,616,067) in view of Settles.

Settles teaches a supersonic abrasive blasting apparatus comprising swirl edges to aid in the atomization of fluids. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Goenka '067 by providing swirl edges in the expansion chamber as taught by Settles to aid in the atomization of the mixture.

6. Claims 44-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goenka (US Patent 5,616,067) in view of Settles.

Goenka '067 discloses the instant invention except for the convergent/divergent nozzle. Settles teaches an abrasive blasting apparatus comprising a convergent/divergent nozzle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Goenka '067 by providing a convergent/divergent nozzle since this concept of using such a nozzle in the blasting art has already been taught by Settles. The size increase as recited in claims 46 and 52


and the length as recited in claim 51 would have been matters of design choice since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component which is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claim 50, the angle would have been a matter of design choice also since it would have involved a mere change in the angular orientation.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 38 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davis D. Hwu whose telephone number is 571-272-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Primary Examiner